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APPLICATION FOR UNITED STATES PATENT

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Invention:

IMPROVEMENTS IN CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS

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SPECIFICATION

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IMPROVEMENTS IN CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS

This application is the 35 USC 371 National stage of ~~the~~ PCT/GB92/02334, filed December 16, 1992.

5 This invention concerns improvements in chemical compounds, more especially it concerns compounds and pharmaceutical compositions. In particular it concerns compositions and compounds having activity in in vitro tests on Human Immunodeficiency Virus-infected cells.

10 The disease known as Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) caused by infection by HIV has attracted immense research effort because of the effects of the disease on infected individuals and the dangers of the disease spreading to a wider section of the population. In general, although various chemo-therapeutic treatments have been advocated, and some

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compounds have emerged as a potential basis for treatment, there is still a need for alternatives. In particular, most treatments such as the compound known as AZT have a high toxicity to cells, and it would be desirable to find compounds which are less toxic. In man, the development of resistance to AZT has been identified as an additional clinical problem.

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We have found a group of compounds which show protective properties in in vitro screens of cells challenged with HIV-1 and/or HIV-2, and are therefore useful for the treatment of AIDS and AIDS Related Complex and other viral and especially retroviral infections. Accordingly, the present invention provides the use of compounds defined below, in pharmaceutical compositions for treating HIV-infected patients. The invention further provides pharmaceutical compositions comprising a said compound in combination or association with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or excipient, for the treatment of HIV-infected patients. The invention may also be defined as the use of a said compound for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of HIV-infected patients. The invention further provides a process for the production of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a HIV-infected patient, comprising the combination of a compound as defined below with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or excipient, and formulating said composition into a form suitable for administration to said patient. The invention also provides a method of treatment of an HIV-infected patient, comprising administering to said patient an effective dose of a said compound. It is to be understood that treatment includes prophylactic treatment of patients

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at risk, in view of the protective properties observed. The use of the compounds may also be stated as a method of treating HIV-infected or HIV-challenged human cells to prevent or modulate the multiplication of the HIV, comprising administering to said cells an effective dose of a said compound. Whilst this description is especially directed to combating HIV, this invention includes other aspects in which other diseases may be treated, including for example microbial infections.

A 2,2'-dimer of cyclam has been reported as being isolated as a 2% by-product in the synthesis of cyclam (1,4,8,11-tetraaza-cyclotetradecane) (Barefield et al, J C S Chem Comm (1981), 302). This compound was stated to be insoluble in water. We believe that the insoluble 2,2'-bicyclam is a mixture of the 2R,2'R and 2S,2'S enantiomers; we have characterised a soluble dimer which we believe to be the meso 2R,2'S isomer. The 6,6'-bicyclam isomer has been reported by Fabbrizzi et al, Inorg Chem 25, 2671 (1986). Certain N,N'-linked bicyclic compounds have been reported by Ciampolini et al, Inorg Chem 26, 3527 (1987). No biological activity has been suggested for such compounds.

US Patent 4,156,683 discloses monocyclic and bicyclic macrocyclic compounds, which are said to have biological activity in regulating sodium, potassium and calcium levels in mammals. Additionally, a specific group of N-alkylated monocyclic compounds are said to possess activity against A₂ influenza viruses in a modified Hermann test on chick fibroblast tissue. It

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is also said that the preferred compounds, which form complexes of greater stability, are those having three bridging chains between bridgehead nitrogen atoms, that is fused bicyclic compounds.

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EP-A-0296522 discloses certain functionally modified cyclic polyamines, including that known as "cyclam", which complexes with rhodium and may be bound to an antibody or antibody fragment. The aromatic-linked cyclic polyamines which form the subject of the present invention are not disclosed, nor is any anti-viral activity.

10

EP-A-0305320 also discloses several modified cyclic polyamines, but does not disclose identical cyclic polyamines linked together.

15

WO-A-9105762 discloses polyamines useful for their multi-point chelating activity, but does not disclose linked cyclic polyamines.

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WO-A-9216494 is in the same name as the present applicants, and discloses long-chain polyamines, optionally linked to a cyclic polyamine, as agents active against HIV. No molecules having two cyclic polyamines, linked through an aromatic linker are disclosed in this prior art.

Our USP 5,021,409 (equivalent to EP-A-0434385) describes linked cyclic compounds as being active against HIV-1 and HIV-2 in in vitro tests. We have now discovered that certain of these linked cyclic compounds

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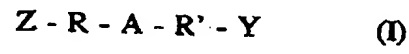
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exhibit surprisingly improved activity against HIV. Thus, the present invention concerns a selected group of the compounds taught in said USP, having activity of at least an order of magnitude greater than the compounds tested in said USP.

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The present invention provides as active compounds linked cyclic compounds of the general formula I



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in which Z and Y are identical cyclic polyamine moieties having from 9 to 20 ring members and from 3 to 6 amine nitrogens in the ring spaced by 2 or more carbon atoms from each other,

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A is an aromatic or heteroaromatic moiety other than quinoline, and

R and R' are each methylene linked to an amine nitrogen atom in Z and in Y, the amine nitrogens being otherwise unsubstituted. The invention also encompasses acid addition salts and metal complexes of the compounds of formula I.

20

In the above formula, the cyclic polyamine moieties may be substituted or unsubstituted, and suitable substituents are alkyl and/or aryl groups, eg of up to 10 carbon atoms, and any other atoms or groups which do not substantially adversely affect the activity or toxicity of the compounds.

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Preferred moieties are those of 10 to 15 ring members, and there are preferably 3 or 4 amine nitrogen atoms.

5 The aromatic or heteroaromatic moiety A tethers Y and Z through the linking groups R and R'. Moiety A may be phenyl or fused aromatic such as naphthyl, heterocyclic such as pyridyl or thiophenyl, fused heterocyclic or joined aromatic and/or joined heteroaromatic, for example biphenyl or bipyridyl respectively. The moieties A may also be substituted at single or multiple non-linking positions with electron-donating groups, eg alkyl, 10 thio, thioalkyl, hydroxyl, alkoxyl, amino and derivatives thereof, or electron-withdrawing groups or atoms, eg nitro, halogen, carboxy, carboxamido, sulfonic acid and derivatives thereof.

15 The invention also includes what may be termed "pro-drugs", that is protected forms of the linked cyclic compounds, which release the compound after administration to a patient. For example, the compound may carry a protective group which is split off by hydrolysis in body fluids, eg in the bloodstream, thus releasing active compound. A discussion of pro-drugs may be found in "Smith and Williams' Introduction to the Principles of Drug 20 Design", H J Smith, Wright, 2nd Edition, London 1988.

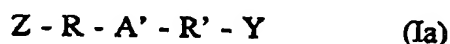
A few of the active compounds according to the invention are known, (see Inorg Chem 26 (1987), p 3527-3533 and J Chem Soc, Chem Commun, (1991), 206, 207).

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Accordingly, certain of the compounds of formula I are novel. The invention accordingly provides novel linked cyclic polyamine compounds of general formula Ia,

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in which Z, Y, R and R' are as defined above, with R and R' linked to nitrogen atoms in Z and Y, and

10

A' is an aromatic or heteroaromatic moiety which is unsubstituted or substituted, other than quinoline, provided that A' is not unsubstituted phenylene when Z and Y are 14-membered tetraaza rings,

and their acid addition salts and metal complexes.

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The invention further provides a method for the production of the compounds of formula Ia, which method comprises nucleophilic attack by cyclic polyamines Z' and Y' each having a single unprotected ring amine nitrogen, all other ring amine nitrogens being protected, on a compound of formula II

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wherein R, R' and A' are as defined above, and

each X is an active substituent which can be displaced by the unprotected amine nitrogens of polyamines Z' and Y' and is

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preferably selected from Br, Cl, I, methanesulfonate, 4-tolylsulfonate and trifluoromethane sulfonate, and subsequently deprotecting the ring amine nitrogens.

5 It is well within the capabilities and knowledge of the skilled synthetic chemist to protect the amine nitrogens of cyclic polyamines, and it is preferred to use substitution by methanesulfonyl and/or 4-tolylsulfonyl and/or diethylphosphoryl. The compounds of formula II are known.

10 The reaction is preferably carried out by reacting two equivalents of the protected polyamine with the compound of formula II in a solvent, such as acetonitrile or dimethylformamide, tetrahydrofuran or dioxane and in the presence of a base, for example sodium carbonate or potassium carbonate. The reaction generally takes place readily at room temperature to elevated temperature, to give a linked molecule having protected amine nitrogen atoms.

15 In general, a mixture of products will be obtained, and we have found that chromatography on silica gel is a particularly convenient method of separation.

20 The deprotection step is suitably carried out by refluxing the protected molecule in a mixture of aqueous HBr and acetic acid or in the case of diethylphosphoryl in the presence of hydrogen chloride (gas) in THF or dioxane.

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The compounds are indicated for the treatment of viral infections, especially retrovirus infections and particularly HIV infections, and the compounds of formula I are to be considered as active compounds for the pharmaceutical compositions, processes for making the same and methods of treatment mentioned above. In these aspects of the invention, it is to be understood that meso forms, enantiomers and resolved optically active forms of the compounds of formula I are included. Also, it is to be considered within the invention, compounds of formula I diluted with non-toxic or other active substances.

Acid addition salts, for example hydrochlorides, and non-toxic labile metal complexes of the compounds of formula I are also active compounds according to the present invention. Non-toxic in the present context has to be considered with reference to the prognosis for the infected patient without treatment. Copper and zinc complexes are preferred although other metals such as nickel may be considered, whereas less labile metal atoms such as cobalt and rhodium are less preferred because of likely lower selectivity.

The present invention will now be illustrated by the following preparative examples.

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EXAMPLE 1

a) **2,3,5,6-Tetrafluoro-p-xylene- α,α' -diol**

5 To a stirred solution of perfluoroterephthalic acid (1.0g, 4.2mmol)
in anhydrous THF (10ml) under an atmosphere of dry argon was added Borane.
THF complex (1.0M solution in THF, 10 equivalents, 42ml) dropwise, and the
mixture stirred at room temperature overnight. The solution was evaporated
under reduced pressure to give a colourless oil and the excess Borane destroyed
by addition of anhydrous methanol (40ml) and evaporation (repeated three
10 times). The residue was treated with 5% aqueous hydrochloric acid then the pH
of the mixture was adjusted to pH9 with 1N aqueous sodium hydroxide solution
and extracted with dichloromethane (3 x 50ml). The combined organic extracts
were dried (MgSO_4) and evaporated to give 2,3,5,6-tetra-
fluoro-p-xylene- α,α' -diol (0.75 g, 86%) as a white solid. This was used without
15 further purification.

b) **2,3,5,6-Tetrafluoro-p-xylene- α,α' -diol dimesylate**

20 To a stirred solution of 2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-p-xylene- α,α' -diol
(0.72g, 3.4mmol) in dichloromethane (40ml) containing triethylamine (1.2ml,
2.5 equivalents) was added methanesulfonyl chloride (0.58ml, 2.2 equivalents)
dropwise at 0°C and the mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature
overnight. The solution was washed with saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate
solution (2 x 20ml) and brine (2x 20ml) then dried (MgSO_4) and evaporated

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under reduced pressure. The residue was suspended in ether and filtered giving 2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-p-xylene- α,α' -diol dimesylate (0.9g, 72%) as a white solid.

c) **1,1'-[2,3,5,6-Tetrafluoro-1,4-phenylenebis-(methylene)]-bis-tris(p-toluenesulfonyl)-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane**

2,3,5,6-Tetrafluoro-p-xylene- α,α' -diol dimesylate (150mg, 0.4mmol), tris-(p-toluenesulfonyl)-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane monohydrate (826mg, 1.2mmol, 3.0 equivalents) and potassium carbonate (252mg, 3.0 equivalents) in anhydrous acetonitrile (20ml) were heated to reflux with stirring under argon for 48 hours until all the dimesylate starting material had been consumed; confirmed by TLC (silica gel, 2% methanol in dichloromethane as eluent). The mixture was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was dissolved in ethyl acetate (40ml) and washed with saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (2 x 20ml) and brine (2 x 20ml) then dried (MgSO_4) and evaporated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel eluting with 2% methanol in dichloromethane giving a white foam identified by ^1H NMR and FAB-MS as 1,1'-[2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-1,4-phenylenebis-(methylene)]-bis-tris-(p-toluenesulfonyl)-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane. $\text{C}_{70}\text{H}_{86}\text{N}_8\text{O}_{12}\text{S}_6\text{F}_4$ requires C, 56.05; H, 5.78; N, 7.47; found C, 55.81; H, 5.73; N, 7.36.

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d) **1,1'-[2,3,5,6-Tetrafluoro-1,4-phenylenebis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane**

1,1'-[2,3,5,6-Tetrafluoro-1,4-phenylenebis-(methylene)]-bis-tris-(p-toluenesulfonyl)-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane (200mg, 0.13mmol) was dissolved in a mixture of acetic acid and hydrobromic acid (48%) in a ratio of approximately 3:2 by volume (10ml) and heated to 100°C for 24 hours during which time a white solid precipitated. The mixture was allowed to cool and the solid was filtered off and washed with acetic acid and ether and dried in vacuo giving a white solid identified by ¹H NMR, FAB-MS and elemental analysis as 1,1'-[2,3,5,6-tetra-fluoro-1,4-phenylene-bis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclo-tetradecane octahydrobromide dihydrate (65 mg, 40%).

$C_{28}H_{62}N_8O_2Br_8F_4$ requires C, 26.73; H, 4.96; N, 8.90; found C, 26.84; H, 5.05; N, 8.21.

The following compounds were prepared using analogous methods to those described above in steps b)-d):

5-Nitro-m-xylene- α,α' -diol gave 1,1'-[5-Nitro-1,3-phenylene-bis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane octahydrobromide dihydrate.

$C_{28}H_{63}N_8O_4Br_8$ requires C, 27.31; H, 5.31; N, 10.24; found C, 27.49; H, 5.26; N, 9.75.

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2,4,5,6-Tetrachloro-m-xylene- α,α' -diol gave 1,1'-[2,4,5,6-tetrachloro-1,3-phenylene-bis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,8,11-tetraaza-cyclotetradecane octahydrobromide dihydrate.

$C_{28}H_{62}N_8O_2Cl_4Br_8$ requires C, 25.40; H, 4.71; N, 8.46; found C, 25.72; H, 4.76; N, 8.05.

EXAMPLE 2

a) α,α' -Dibromo-1,4-dimethylnaphthalene

To a solution of 1,4-dimethylnaphthalene (0.5g, 3.2mmol) and benzoyl peroxide (0.08 equivalents, 62mg) in carbon tetrachloride (20ml) was added N-bromosuccinimide (1.14g, 2.0 equivalents) and the mixture was heated to reflux for 24 hours during which time a white solid precipitated. The mixture was filtered hot (to remove the succinimide by-product) and then allowed to cool over several hours during which time a white crystalline solid precipitated. The solid was filtered off and dried giving 1,4-dimethylnaphthalene- α,α' -dibromide (473mg, 50%).

The following compound was prepared using methods analogous to steps c) and d) of Example 1:

1,4-Dimethylnaphthalene- α,α' -dibromide gave 1,1'-[1,4-naphthylenebis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane octahydrobromide tetrahydrate.

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$C_{32}H_{72}N_8O_4Br_8$ requires C, 30.20; H, 5.69; N, 8.81; found C, 30.28; H, 5.52; N, 8.66.

EXAMPLE 3

- 5 a) **1-Benzyl-5,13-di-(p-toluenesulfonyl)-9-methanesulfonyl-1,5,9,13-tetraazacyclohexadecane.**

10 To a solution of N,N-bis-[3-(p-toluenesulfonylamidopropyl)]-benzylamine hydrochloride (25g) (NL Patent 6603655) in dry DMF (800ml) under argon was added sodium hydride (10 equivalents) in small portions over 3 hours. When the addition was complete the solution was heated at 60°C for 1 hour then allowed to cool and the excess sodium hydride was removed by filtration under argon. The filtrate was transferred to another dry flask and the solution was then heated to 100-110°C and bis-propanolamine-trimethanesulfonate [P Moore, J Chem Soc Dalton Trans 1985 (7) 1361-1364] 15 (1.0 equivalent) in DMF (500ml) was added dropwise over 8 hours with rapid stirring. The temperature was maintained at 100-110°C for a further 16 hours, allowed to cool, then the mixture was poured into iced water (1500ml) and the resulting off-white precipitate that formed was collected by filtration. The solid 20 was dissolved in dichloromethane (250ml) and the solution was washed with water (5 x 50ml), then dried ($MgSO_4$) and evaporated under reduced pressure to give a yellow oil. Trituration with ethanol (200ml) gave a white crystalline solid which was filtered off, washed with a small volume of ethanol, then ether and dried in vacuo to give 1-benzyl-5,-13-di-(p-toluenesulphonyl)-9-

methanesulphonyl-1,5,9,13-tetraazacyclo-hexadecane (45%), identified by ¹H NMR and FAB-MS.

b) **1,9-Di-(p-toluenesulfonyl)-5-methanesulfonyl-1,5,9,13-tetraazacyclohexadecane**

To a solution of 1-benzyl-5,13-di-(p-toluene-sulfonyl)-9-methanesulfonyl-1,5,9,13-tetraazacyclohexadecane in formic acid (20ml) was added Palladium hydroxide on carbon (Pearlmans catalyst, 4.0g) and the resulting suspension was heated to reflux for 72 hours with stirring. The mixture was allowed to cool, then filtered through celite and the filtrate was evaporated under reduced pressure. The colourless oil which remained was dissolved in dichloromethane (50ml) and washed with 10% aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (2 x 20ml), and water (2 x 20ml) then dried (MgSO₄) and evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel eluting with 3% methanol in dichloromethane giving a white solid identified by ¹H NMR and FAB-MS as 1,9-di-(p-toluene-sulphonyl-5-methanesulfonyl-1,5,9,13-tetraaza-cyclohexadecane.

The mono-deprotected tetraazacyclohexadecane macrocycle described in step b) was used as described in Example 1 steps c) and d), to prepare tetraazacyclohexadecane dimers.

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The following compounds were prepared in this manner.

5 α,α' -Dibromo-m-xylene gave 1,1'-[1,3-phenylene-bis-(methylene)]-bis-1,5,9,13-tetraazacyclohexadecane octahydrobromide hexahydrate.

$C_{32}H_{76}N_8O_6Br_8$ requires C, 29.29; H, 6.15; N, 8.54; found C, 29.37; H, 5.50; N, 7.90.

10 α,α' -Dibromo-p-xylene gave 1,1'-[1,4-phenylene-bis-(methylene)]-bis-1,5,9,13-tetraazacyclohexadecane octahydrobromide hexahydrate.

$C_{32}H_{76}N_8O_6Br_8$ requires C, 29.29; H, 6.15; N, 8.54; found. C, 28.96; H, 5.47; N, 7.96.

15 Other compounds which may be made according to the invention are:

1,1'-[1,3-phenylenebis(methylene)]-bis-1,5,9,13-tetraazacyclohexadecane
1,1'-[1,3-phenylenebis(methylene)]-bis-1,5,9-triazacyclododecane
20 1,1'-[1,4-phenylenebis(methylene)]-bis-1,5,9-triazacyclododecane

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Synthesis of Compound F

**1,1'-[1,4-Phenylene-bis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane
zinc dichloride monohydrate**

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To a stirred solution of 1,1'-[1,4-phenylene-bis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane (1g) in methanol (25ml) was added zinc(II) chloride (0.54g, 2.0 eq) in methanol (5ml). Towards the end of the addition a white precipitate formed. Sufficient methanol and water were added to give a homogenous solution and the mixture was then evaporated in vacuo. The solid residue was suspended in a mixture of methanol/ether and filtered giving 1,1'-[1,4-phenylene-bis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane zinc dichloride monohydrate (1.45g, 94%) as a white powder.

15 $C_{28}H_{56}N_8Cl_4O \cdot Zn_2$ requires; C, 42.38; H, 7.11; N, 14.12; Cl, 17.88; found; C, 42.64; H, 7.14; N, 14.18; Cl, 17.89.

Synthesis of Compound G

20 **1,1'-[1,4-Phenylene-bis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane
copper diacetate heptahydrate**

20

To a stirred solution of 1,1' [1,4-phenylene-bis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane (100mg) was added copper(II) acetate (72mg, 2.0 eq) in one portion. The solution became dark blue/purple in colour almost

immediately. The mixture was stirred for one hour then triturated with ether to give a blue precipitate. The blue solid was filtered off and dried giving 1,1'-[1,4-phenylene-bis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane copper diacetate heptahydrate (80mg, 46%).

5 $C_{36}H_{80}N_8O_{15}Cu_2$ requires; C, 43.58; H, 8.13; N, 11.29; found: C, 43.24; H, 7.88; N, 11.13.

EXAMPLE 6

10 1,1'-[3,3'-Biphenylene-bis-(methylene)]-bis-tris-(p-toluenesulphonyl)-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane

15 A mixture of 3,3'-bis-(bromomethyl)-1,1'-biphenyl [W Wenner, J. Org. Chem. (1952), 17, 525-528], (200mg, 0.59mmol), anhydrous potassium carbonate (325mg, 2.35mmol, 4 eq) and tris-(p-toluene-sulphonyl)-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane (801mg, 1.18mmol, 2 eq) in anhydrous acetonitrile (15ml) was stirred at 50°C under argon. After 6 hours the reaction mixture was allowed to cool; dichloromethane (75ml) was added and the resulting solution filtered. The filtrate was evaporated in vacuo to yield a glassy white solid. Chromatography of the crude product on a column of silica gel (2.5cm x 20cm),
20 eluting with methanol/ dichloromethane 1:160 v/v gave a white solid, identified by 1H NMR as 1,1'-[3,3'-biphenylene-bis-(methylene)]-bis-tris-(p-toluenesulphonyl)-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane (665mg, 76%).

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Synthesis of Compound J

1,1'-[3,3'-Biphenylene-bis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane octahydrobromide tetrahydrate

5 The per-tosylated derivative from above (450mg, 0.30mmol) was dissolved in glacial acetic acid (9ml). Hydrobromic acid (~48% w/v, Aldrich, 3.5ml) was added and the resulting mixture heated to reflux. After 24 hours the dark brown solution was cooled in an ice bath over 2 hours during which time an off-white precipitate formed. The precipitate was collected by centrifugation and washed with glacial acetic acid (3 x 10ml) followed by diethyl ether (4 x 10ml) then dried overnight in vacuo to give a white powder, identified by ¹H NMR and elemental analysis as 1,1'-[3,3'-biphenylene-bis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,8,11-tetraaza-cyclotetradecane octahydrobromide tetrahydrate (194mg, 50%). $C_{34}H_{24}N_8Br_8O_4$ requires; C, 31.46; H, 5.70; N, 8.63; found; C, 31.30; H, 5.68; N, 8.60.

EXAMPLE 7

1,1'-[4,4'-(2,2'-Bipyridine)-bis-(methylene)]-bis-tris-(p-toluenesulphonyl)-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane

20 A mixture of 4,4'-bis-(bromomethyl)-2,2'-bipyridine [T J Meyer, Inorg. Chem. (1991), 30, 2942-2949], (200mg, 0.57mmol), anhydrous potassium carbonate (314mg, 2.27mmol, 4 eq) and tris-(p-toluenesulfonyl)-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane (774mg, 1.14mmol, 2 eq) in anhydrous acetonitrile

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(20ml) was stirred at 50°C under argon for 2 hours. The mixture was allowed to cool and dichloromethane (100ml) was added and the resulting solution filtered through celite. The filtrate was evaporated in vacuo to give a yellow glassy solid which was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (3 x 20cm column) using triethylamine/methanol/dichloromethane 1:1:100 v/v as eluent. A glassy white solid was obtained, identified by ¹H NMR as 1,1'-[4,4'-(2,2'-bipyridine)-bis-(methylene)]-bis-tris-(p-toluenesulphonyl)-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane (600mg, 70%).

Synthesis of Compound K

1,1'-[4,4'-(2,2'-Bipyridine)-bis-(methyl)]-bis-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane decahydrobromide pentahydrate

The per-tosylate derivative from above (570mg, 0.38mmol) was dissolved in glacial acetic acid (6.5ml). Hydrobromic acid (~48% w/v, Aldrich, 3.0mmol) was added and the mixture heated to reflux for 24 hours. The resulting dark brown solution was cooled in an ice bath over 2 hours) during which time an off-white precipitate formed. The precipitate was collected by centrifugation and washed with glacial acetic acid (3 x 10ml) followed by diethyl ether (5 x 10ml) and dried overnight in vacuo to give a white powder identified by ¹H NMR and elemental analysis as 1,1'-[4,4'-(2,2'-bipyridine)-bis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane decahydrobromide pentahydrate (450mg, 81%).

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$C_{32}H_{76}N_{10}Br_{10}O_5$ requires; C, 25.97; H, 5.17; N, 9.46; found; C, 26.07; H, 4.57; N, 9.47.

EXAMPLE 8

5 **1,1'-[2,9-(1,10-Phenanthroline)-bis-(methylene)]-bis-tris-(p-toluene-sulphonyl)-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane**

10 A mixture of 2,9-bis-(bromomethyl)-1,10-phenanthroline [C J Chandler, J. Heterocycl. Chem. (1981), 18, 599-601], (200mg, 0.54mmol), anhydrous potassium carbonate (300mg, 2.17mmol, 4 eq) and tris-(p-toluenesulphonyl)-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane (740mg, 1.09mmol, 2 eq) in anhydrous acetonitrile (20ml) were stirred at 50°C under argon for 3 hours. The mixture was allowed to cool and dichloromethane (100ml) was added and the resulting solution filtered through celite. The filtrate was evaporated in vacuo to give a yellow glassy solid which was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (3 x 20cm column) using triethylamine/methanol/dichloromethane 1:3:100 v/v eluent. A pale yellow solid was obtained, identified by 1H NMR as 1,1'-[2,9-(1,10-phenanthroline)-bis-(methylene)]-bis-tris-(p-toluenesulphonyl)-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane (575mg, 69%).

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Synthesis of Compound L

1,1'-[2,9-(1,10-Phenanthroline)-bis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,8,11-tetraaza-cyclotetradecane decahydrobromide trihydrate

5 The per-tosylated derivative from above (400mg, 0.26mmol) was dissolved in glacial acetic acid (8ml). Hydrobromic acid (~48% w/v, Aldrich, 3.5ml) was added and the mixture was heated to reflux for 16 hours. The resulting dark brown solution was cooled in an ice bath over 2 hours during which time an off-white precipitate formed. The precipitate was collected by
10 centrifugation then purified by re-precipitation from a mixture of hydrobromic acid (~48% w/v, 2ml) and water (2ml) with glacial acetic acid (5ml). The white solid was again collected by centrifugation, washed with glacial acetic acid (3 x 10ml) and diethyl ether (4 x 10ml) and finally dried overnight in vacuo to give a white powder, identified by ¹H NMR and elemental analysis as
15 1,1'-[2,9-(1,10-phenanthroline)-bis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane decahydrobromide trihydrate (80mg, 21%).

$C_{34}H_{72}N_{10}Br_{10}O_3$ requires; C, 27.82; H, 4.94; N, 9.54; found; C, 27.81; H, 4.97; N, 9.17.

EXAMPLE 9

20 This compound and corresponding intermediates are described by T A Kaden, *Helv. Chim. Acta.*, (1985), 69, 53-61. An alternative procedure is given below.

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11,11'-[1,4-Phenylene-bis-(methylene)]-bis-tris-(p-toluenesulphonyl)-1,4,7,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane

5 A mixture of α,α' -dibromo-p-xylene (249mg, 0.94mmol),
anhydrous potassium carbonate (652mg, 4.71mmol, 5 eq) and tris-(p-toluene-
sulphonyl)-1,4,7,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane [T A Kaden, *Helv. Chim. Acta.*,
10 (1983), **66**, 861-870] (1.25g, 1.89mmol, 2 eq) in anhydrous acetonitrile (15ml)
was heated at 50°C with stirring under argon for 18 hours. The reaction
mixture was allowed to cool and dichloromethane (50ml) was added and the
15 resulting solution filtered through celite. The filtrate was evaporated in vacuo
to give a white foam which was purified by column chromatography on silica
gel using methanol/dichloromethane (1:40 v/v) as eluent. A white solid was
obtained, identified by ^1H NMR as 11,11'-[1,4-phenylene-bis-(methylene)]-bis-
tris-(p-toluenesulphonyl)-1,4,7,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane (1.0g, 74%).

Synthesis of Compound M

**11,11'-[1,4-Phenylene-bis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,7,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane
octahydrobromide dihydrate**

20 The per-tosylated derivative from above (500mg, 0.35mmol) was
dissolved in glacial acetic acid (7ml). Hydrobromic acid (~48% w/v, 4ml) was
added and the resulting mixture heated to reflux for 20 hours. Further glacial
acetic acid (10ml) was added and the solution was cooled in an ice bath over
1 hour during which time a white precipitate formed. The solid was collected

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by centrifugation and washed with glacial acetic acid (2 x 10ml) followed by diethyl ether (4 x 10ml) and dried overnight in vacuo to give a white powder, identified by ¹H NMR and elemental analysis as 11,11'-[1,4-phenylene-bis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,7,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane octahydrobromide dihydrate (280mg, 67%).

$C_{28}H_{66}N_8Br_8O_2$ requires; C, 28.35; H, 5.61; N, 9.45; found; C, 28.34; H, 5.42; N, 9.02.

EXAMPLE 10

10 **11-[(1,Methylene-4-bromomethylene)-phenylene]-tris-(p-toluenesulphonyl)-1,4,7,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane**

15 A mixture of α,α' -dibromo-p-xylene (3.98g, 15.1mmol, 10 eq), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (417mg, 3.02mmol, 2 eq) in anhydrous acetonitrile (20ml) was heated to 50°C. With rapid stirring a solution of tris-(p-toluenesulphonyl)-1,4,7,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane (1.0g, 1.51mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (20ml) was added dropwise over 4 hours. After a further 1 hour the reaction mixture was allowed to cool and the solvent evaporated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (5 x 20cm), eluting with a gradient of dichloromethane to methanol/dichloromethane 1:20 v/v over 2 litres total elution volume. To the resulting colourless glass 20 was added dry hexane (150ml) and the mixture was heated to reflux then allowed to cool to room temperature. The precipitate which formed was filtered, washed with hexane (3 x 10ml) followed by diethyl ether (20ml) and

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dried overnight in vacuo to give the title compound as a white powder (710mg, 53%).

5 **1,11'-[1,4-Phenylene-bis-(methylene)]-tris-(p-toluenesulphonyl)-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane)-tris-(p-toluenesulphonyl)-1,4,7,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane**

10 A mixture of 11-[(1-methylene-4-bromomethylene)-phenylene]-tris-(p-toluenesulphonyl)-1,4,7,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane (350mg, 0.41mmol), anhydrous potassium carbonate (230mg, 1.66mmol, 4 eq) and tris-(p-toluenesulphonyl)-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane (422mg, 0.62mmol, 1.5 eq) in anhydrous acetonitrile (20ml) were heated with stirring at 50°C under argon for 7 hours. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool and the solvent was evaporated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (2.5 x 25cm column) using methanol/dichloromethane (1:60 v/v) as
15 eluent, followed by preparative thin layer chromatography on silica gel (eluent methanol/dichloromethane 1:40 v/v, 20 mg/plate) to give a colourless glass, identified by ¹H NMR as the title compound (130mg, 30%).

Synthesis of Compound N

1,11'-[1,4-Phenylene-bis-(methylene)]-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane-1,4,7,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane octahydrobromide hexahydrate

5 The per-tosylated derivative from above (115mg, 0.08mmol) was dissolved in glacial acetic acid (3ml). Hydrobromic acid (~48%, Aldrich, 1.5mmol) was added and the mixture was heated to reflux for 48 hour. The resulting dark brown solution was cooled in an ice bath and a white precipitate formed. The solid was collected by centrifugation and washed with glacial
10 acetic acid (3 x 10ml) followed by diethyl ether (5 x 10ml) and dried overnight in vacuo to give a white powder, identified by ¹H NMR and elemental analysis as 1,11'-[1,4-phenylene-bis-(methylene)]-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane-1,4,7,11-tetraaza-cyclotetradecane octahydrobromide hexahydrate. (71mg, 75%).
15 C₂₉H₇₄N₈Br₈O₆ requires; C, 26.73; H, 5.93; N, 8.91; found; C, 26.50; H, 5.69; N, 9.31.

EXAMPLE 11

1,1'-[2,6-Pyridinebis-(methylene)]-bis-tris-(p-toluenesulphonyl)-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane

20 A stirred solution of 2,6-bis(bromomethyl)pyridine hydrobromide [M E Haeg, B J Whitlock and H W Whitlock Jr, J. Am. Chem. Soc., (1989), 111, 692], (131mg, 0.378mmol), tris-(p-toluene-sulphonyl)-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane (500mg, 0.75mmol) and potassium carbonate (400mg,

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2.88mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (15ml) was heated at 80°C for 22 hours under an atmosphere of argon. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using 3% methanol in dichloromethane as eluent thus affording a pale white solid which was identified by ¹H NMR and FAB-MS as 1,1'-[2,6-pyridinebis-(methylene)]-bis-tris(p-toluene-sulphonyl)-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane (500mg, 93%).

Mass spectrum (FAB); m/e (relative intensity); 1428 (M+1, 100), 1272 (35).

10 Synthesis of Compound O

1,1'-[2,6-Pyridinebis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane octahydrobromide tetrahydrate

To a stirred solution of 1,1'-[2,6-pyridinebis-(methylene)]-bis-tris(p-toluenesulphonyl)-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane (500mg, 0.35mmol) in acetic acid (16ml) was added 48% hydrobromic acid (12ml) and the solution heated to 110°C for 48 hours during which time a white solid precipitated. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature and the solid was filtered off, washed with acetic acid followed by ether and dried in vacuo thus affording a white solid which was identified by ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, FAB-MS and elemental analysis as 1,1'-[2,6-pyridinebis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane octahydrobromide tetrahydrate (230mg, 65%).

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$C_{27}H_{69}N_9O_4Br_8$ requires; C, 26.50; H, 5.64; N, 10.31; Br, 52.29; found C, 26.91; H, 5.31; N, 10.08; Br, 51.99. Mass spectrum (FAB); m/e (relative intensity); 586 (M+HBr, 48), 584 (M+HBr, 50), 504 (M+1, 100), 201 (60).

5

EXAMPLE 12

1,1'-[3,5-Pyridine-bis-(methylene)]-bis-tris(p-toluenesulphonyl)-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane

10 A stirred solution of 3,5-bis(bromomethyl)pyridine hydrobromide
(M Momenteau, J Mispelter, B Looock and J M Lhoste, J. Chem. Soc. Perkin
Trans. 1, (1985), 61], (131mg, 0.37mmol), tris-(p-toluenesulphonyl)-1,4,8,11-
tetraazacyclotetradecane (500mg, 0.755mmol) and potassium carbonate (400mg,
2.88mmol) in anhydrous dimethylformamide (15ml) were heated at 70°C for 21
hours under an atmosphere of argon. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool
15 to room temperature and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by
column chromatography on silica gel using 2% methanol in dichloromethane as
eluent thus affording a white foamy solid which was identified by ¹H NMR and
FAB-MS as 1,1'-[3,5-pyridinebis-(methylene)]-bis-tris(p-toluenesulphonyl)-
1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane (320mg, 78%).

20 Mass spectrum (FAB); m/e (relative intensity); 1428 (M+1,100), 1272 (45).

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Synthesis of Compound P

**1,1'-[3,5-Pyridinebis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane
nonahydrobromide dihydrate**

5 To a stirred solution of 1,1'-[3,5-pyridinebis-(methylene)]-bis-
tris(p-toluenesulphonyl)-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane (320mg, 0.224mmol)
in acetic acid (12ml) was added 48% hydrobromic acid (8ml) and the solution
heated to 100°C for 48 hours during which time a white solid precipitated. The
10 reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature and the solid was
filtered off, washed with acetic acid followed by ether and dried in vacuo thus
affording a white solid which was identified by ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, FAB-MS
and elemental analysis as 1,1'-[3,5-pyridinebis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,8,11-tetra-
azacyclotetradecane nonahydrobromide dihydrate (150mg, 53%).
C₂₇H₆₆N₉O₂Br₉ requires; C, 25.56; H, 5.21; N, 9.94; Br, 56.74; found C, 25.71;
15 H, 5.25; N, 9.76; Br, 56.28. Mass spectrum (FAB); m/e (relative intensity); 586
(M+HBr, 39), 584 (M+HBr, 41), 504 (M+1, 60), 201 (100).

EXAMPLE 13

**1,1'-[1,3-Phenylenebis-(methylene)]-bis-tris(p-toluenesulphonyl)-1,4,7,10-
20 tetraazacyclododecane**

A stirred solution of α,α'-dibromo-m-xylene (125mg,
0.472mmol), tris-(p-toluenesulphonyl)-1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane
[M F Tweedle et al, Inorg. Chem., (1992), 30, 1265], (600mg, 0.945mmol) and
30

potassium carbonate (400mg, 2.88mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (15ml) were heated to reflux for 6 hours under an atmosphere of argon. The resulting cloudy white solution was allowed to cool to room temperature and the solids collected by filtration and washed with acetonitrile. The solid residue was dissolved in a mixture of dichloromethane (100ml) and water (15ml). The organic phase was separated and washed with water (15ml), dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was dried in vacuo thus affording a white foamy solid which was identified by ¹H NMR as 1,1'-[1,3-phenylenebis-(methylene)]-bis-tris-(p-toluenesulphonyl)-1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane (330mg, 51%).

Synthesis of Compound Q

1,1'-[1,3-Phenylenebis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane hexahydrobromide

To a stirred solution of 1,1'-[1,3-phenylenebis-(methylene)]-bis-tris-(p-toluenesulphonyl)-1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane (330mg, 0.24mmol) in anhydrous methanol/tetrahydrofuran (1:2, 15ml) was added 3% sodium amalgam (20g) and dibasic sodium phosphate (400mg). The reaction mixture was vigorously stirred under argon at 70°C for 41 hours. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature and the supernatant solution was separated from the solids by decantation then concentrated in vacuo. Chloroform (50ml) and water (5ml) were added to the residue and the aqueous phase was extracted with chloroform (3 x 50ml). Concentration of the combined organic fractions

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afforded quantitatively a viscous oil which was identified by ^1H NMR as 1,1'-[1,3-phenylenebis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane.

5 Into a stirred solution of 1,1'-[1,3-phenylenebis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane in ethanol (20ml, 95%) was bubbled HBr gas for 15 minutes resulting in an immediate white precipitate. The white solid was filtered off, washed with ethanol and ether and immediately dried in vacuo for 48 hours thus affording a white solid which was identified by ^1H NMR, ^{13}C NMR, FAB-MS and elemental analysis as 1,1'-[1,3-phenylene-(methylene)]-bis-10 1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclo-dodecane hexahydrobromide (130mg, 63%).
 $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{52}\text{N}_8\text{Br}_6$ requires C, 30.92; H, 5.62; N, 12.02; Br, 51.43; found C, 31.09; H, 5.80; N, 11.90; Br, 51.17. Mass spectrum (FAB); m/e (relative intensity); 529 (M+HBr, 53), 527 (M+HBr, 55), 447 (M+1, 100), 277 (40), 185 (35).

15

EXAMPLE 14

1,1'-[1,4-Phenylenebis-(methylene)]-bis-tris(p-toluenesulphonyl)-1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane

20

A stirred solution of α,α' -dibromo-p-xylene (99mg, 0.374mmol), tris-(p-toluenesulphonyl)-1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane (475mg, 0.748mmol) and potassium carbonate (320mg, 2.24mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (15ml) was heated at reflux for 14 hours under an atmosphere of argon. The resulting cloudy white solution was allowed to cool to room temperature and the solids collected by filtration and washed with acetonitrile. The solid residue was

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dissolved in a mixture of dichloromethane (120ml) and water (15ml). The organic phase was separated and washed with water (15ml), dried (MgSO_4) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was dried in vacuo thus affording a white solid which was identified by ^1H NMR as 1,1'-[1,4-phenylenebis-(methylene)]-bis-tris-(p-toluenesulphonyl)-1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane (360mg, 70%).

Mass spectrum (FAB); m/e (relative intensity); 1371 (M+1, 12), 1217 (8).

Synthesis of Compound R

1,1'-[1,4-Phenylenebis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane hexahydrobromide

To a stirred solution of 1,1'-[1,4-phenylenebis-(methylene)]-bis-tris(p-toluenesulphonyl)-1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane (360mg, 0.262mmol) in anhydrous methanol/dimethylsulphoxide (1:5, 18ml) was added 3% sodium amalgam (23g) and dibasic sodium phosphate (400mg). The reaction mixture was vigorously stirred under argon at 100°C for 4 hours then allowed to cool to room temperature and the supernatant solution was separated from the solids by decantation and concentrated in vacuo. Chloroform (50ml) and water (5ml) were added to the residue and the aqueous phase was extracted with chloroform (3x 50ml). Concentration of the combined organic fractions afforded quantitatively a foamy white solid which was identified by ^1H NMR as 1,1'-[1,4-phenylenebis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane.

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Into a stirred solution of 1,1'-[1,4-phenylenebis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane in ethanol (15ml, 95%) was bubbled HBr gas for 15 minutes resulting in an immediate white precipitate. The white solid was filtered off, washed with ethanol and ether and immediately dried in vacuo for 48 hours thus affording a white solid which was identified by ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, FAB-MS and elemental analysis as 1,1'-[1,4-phenylenebis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,7,10-tetra-azacyclododecane hexahydrobromide (115mg, 47%).

C₂₇ H₅₂ N₈ Br₆ requires C, 30.92; H, 5.62; N, 12.02; Br 51.43, found C, 30.90; H, 5.83; N, 11.83; Br, 51.19. Mass spectrum (FAB); m/e (relative intensity); 529 (M+HBr, 40), 527 (M+HBr, 40), 447 (M+1, 58), 185 (100).

EXAMPLE 15

1,1'-[2,5-Thiophene-bis-(methylene)]-bis-tris-(p-toluenesulphonyl)-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane

To a solution of tris-p-toluenesulphonyl-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane monohydrate (1.0g, 1.5mmol) and potassium carbonate (300mg, 2.2mmol) in acetonitrile (20ml) was added 2,5-dichloromethyl thiophene [J M Griffing, L F Salisbury, J. Am. Chem. Soc., (1948), 70, 3416-3419], (137mg, 0.76mmol) and the mixture was heated to reflux overnight with rapid stirring. The mixture was allowed to cool and the solid was filtered off. The filtrate was evaporated in vacuo and the residue partitioned between methylene chloride (50ml) and water (25ml). The organic layer was separated,

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dried (Na_2SO_4) and evaporated in vacuo to give the crude product as a light brown solid. Column chromatography [silica gel; methylene chloride/methanol(40/1)] was used to isolate a white solid identified by ^1H NMR and FAB-MS as 1,1'-[2,5-thiophene-bis-(methylene)]-bis-tris-(p-toluene-sulphonyl)-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane (315mg, 29%).

Mass spectrum (FAB); M/e (relative intensity); 1434 (M+1, 49), 1277 (31), 772 (100), 616 (30), 508 (24).

Synthesis of Compound T

1,1'-[2,5-Thiophenebis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane octahydrobromide

To a solution of 1,1'-[2,5-thiophene-bis-(methylene)]-bis-tris-(p-toluenesulphonyl)-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane (177mg, 0.12mmol) in acetic acid (6ml) was added hydrobromic acid (Aldrich 48% aqueous, 4ml) and the mixture was heated to a reflux with stirring for 16 hours during which time a light brown solid precipitated from a dark brown solution. On cooling, a further portion of acetic acid was added (10ml) and the solids were filtered off, washed with acetic acid (10ml) and ether (20ml) and dried in vacuo giving a white solid identified by ^1H NMR and FAB-MS as 1,1'-[2,5-thiophene-bis-(methylene)-bis-1,4,8,11-tetraaza-cyclotetradecane octahydrobromide (82mg, 97%).

Mass spectrum (FAB); m/e (relative intensity); 591 (M+HBr, 26), 589 (M+HBr, 26), 509 (M+1, 22) 311 (23), 201 (71), 185 (100).

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The compounds of the invention were tested in a screen by the MTT method (J Virol Methods 120: 309-321 [1988]). MT-4 cells (2.5×10^4 /well) were challenged with HIV-1 (HTLV-III_B) or HIV-2 (LAV-2 ROD) at a concentration of 100 CCID₅₀ and incubated in the presence of various concentrations of the test compounds, which were added immediately after challenge with the virus. After 5 days culture at 37°C in a CO₂ incubator, the number of viable cells was assessed by the MTT (tetrazolium) method. Antiviral activity and cytotoxicity of the compounds are expressed in the table below as IC₅₀ (µg/ml) and CC₅₀ (µg/ml), respectively. The potential therapeutic usefulness was assessed by calculating a Selectivity Index (SI) corresponding to the ratio of CC₅₀ to IC₅₀. A control test was performed using the known anti-HIV treatment AZT.

In Table 1 below, the compounds screened were:

AZT : known anti-HIV compound

A : 1,1'-[1,3-phenylenebis(methylene)]bis-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane

B : 1,1'-[1,4-phenylenebis(methylene)]bis-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane

C : 1,1'-[5-nitro-1,3-phenylenebis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane

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D : 1,1'-[2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-1,3-phenylene-bis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane

E : 1,1'-[1,4-naphthylenebis(methylene)]bis-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane

F-V : See preceding preparative Examples.

W : 1,1'-[2,5-dimethyl-1,4-phenylenebis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane

X : 1,1'-[2,5-dichloro-1,4-phenylenebis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane

Y : 1,1'-[2-bromo-1,4-phenylenebis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane

Z : 1,1'-[6-phenyl-2,4-pyridinebis-(methylene)]-bis-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane

TABLE 1

CMPD	HIV-1 (III _B)			HIV-2 (ROD)		
	IC ₅₀ µg/ml	CC ₅₀ µg/ml	SI	IC ₅₀ µg/ml	CC ₅₀ µg/ml	SI
AZT Comparison	<0.008	>1	>125	-	-	-
A	0.03	>500	>1.6x10 ⁴	<0.01	>500	>5x10 ⁴
B	0.006	>500	>8.3x10 ⁴	<0.01	>500	>5x10 ⁴
C	0.05	55	1100	0.07	55	756
D	0.01	60	6000	0.01	60	6000
E	0.07	71	1014	0.05	71	1420
F	0.0026	>200	>7.6x10 ⁴	0.0019	>200	>1x10 ⁵
G	0.018	>200	>1.1x10 ⁴	0.027	>200	>7.4x10 ³
J	0.16	>200	>1250	0.22	>200	>900
K	0.38	117	300	0.35	117	334
L	0.29	>200	>690	0.32	>200	>625
M	0.03	>500	>1.6x10 ⁴	0.07	>500	>7.1x10 ³
N	0.01	>500	>5x10 ⁴	0.07	>500	>7.1x10 ³
O	0.03	>500	>1.6x10 ⁴	0.08	>500	>6.2x10 ³
P	0.04	>500	>1.2x10 ⁴	0.09	>500	>5.5x10 ³
Q	0.07	19	271	0.5	19	38
R	0.3	51	170	2.2	51	23
T	0.01	>500	>5.0x10 ⁴	0.02	>500	>2.5x10 ⁴
W	0.0076	>250	>3.2x10 ⁴	0.0013	>250	>1.9x10 ⁵
X	0.0131	71.87	5461	0.0030	72.66	2.4x10 ⁴
Y	0.0075	>250	>3.2x10 ⁴	0.0043	>250	>5.7x10 ⁴
Z	0.0489	>250	5112	0.0246	>250	1.0x10 ⁴

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It can readily be seen that the compounds according to the invention are highly active against HIV-1 and -2, with low toxicity, in the in vitro tests used.

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The compound B, which is the most preferred compound of the invention, was further tested for antiviral effects on different laboratory strains of HIV-1 in MT-4 cells, using the MIT assay. Compound B was found to have an IC_{50} in the range of 2-5ng/ml against IIIb, RF, HE and NDK strains, showing that its high activity is remarkably strain-independent.

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T4-lymphocytes and monocytes are targets for HIV-1 infection in vivo. The following test method showed that compound B inhibits virus replication also in primary T4 cells and primary monocytes in culture.

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Primary T4 lymphocytes were purified from human spleens obtained from healthy donors by using a commercial kit ("Lympho-Kwik") which combines reaction of cells with specific monoclonal antibodies and density gradient centrifugation to separate the cells. Preparations obtained by this procedure contained 60-80% CD4 positive cells as analysed by FACS. Cells were stimulated with 2 μ g/ml PHA for 24 hours. Then they were spun down and infected with HIV-1, strain IIIb, by suspending the cells 10-fold concentrated in virus solution. Adsorption was allowed for 2 hours at 37°C. The inoculum was removed by centrifugation and the cells were re-suspended at their original concentration in fresh culture medium containing IL-2 (40 IE/ml). Test

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compound was added after stimulation and virus adsorption. Every 3 to 4 days post infection half of the supernatant of the infected cultures was removed and replaced by fresh medium containing the test compound at the particular concentration. The concentration of viral p24 antigen was determined in the supernatants by means of a commercial ELISA kit (Coulter) and served as a parameter for virus production. Compound B does not interfere with the p24 Elisa test (highest concentration tested: 100µg/ml).

Mononuclear cells were isolated from healthy, HIV-negative donors using Ficoll density separation. Cells (4×10^6 /ml) were incubated for 5 days in 48 well plates (Costar) in monocyte medium, consisting of RPMI1640, supplemented with 20% ECS and 10% human serum. On day 5 non-adherent cells were washed out four times with warm PBS containing 2% human serum. Preparations obtained by this procedure were >95% positive for non-specific esterase (Sigma) and cell viability (as determined by trypan blue exclusion) was always >95%.

The monocytopathic strain of HIV-1, BaL, was used for the infection of these monocyte preparations (Perno et al, J Exp Med, 169, 933, 1989).

Adherent monocytes were exposed to 50µg/well of a 1:30 dilution of HIV-1, BaL for 30 minutes subsequently, monocyte medium was added to 1ml/well. Adsorption was allowed for 24 hours at 37°C. Then, the wells were washed twice in order to remove excess virus and were cultivated in the presence of different drug concentrations. Thus, test compounds were added after

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adsorption. Every 3 to 4 days post infection the supernatant of the infected cultures was removed and replaced by fresh medium containing the test compound at the particular concentration. The concentration of viral p24 antigen was determined as described above.

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IC₅₀ and IC₉₀ values were calculated by comparing the p24 antigen concentrations in supernatants of treated, infected cells and untreated, infected cells at days 11 and 14 post infection.

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Table 2 shows that Compound B is a potent inhibitor of HIV-1 replication in both primary cell types, with IC₅₀ values of 1-2ng/ml. At the highest concentration tested, 100ng/ml, no cytotoxicity was observed.

TABLE 2

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Activity of Compound B and AZT against HIV-1, IIIb, replication in primary T4 lymphocytes and against HIV-1, BaL, replication in primary monocytes.

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<u>Compound</u>	<u>Cell Type</u>	<u>IC₅₀ (ug/ml)</u>		<u>IC₉₀ (ug/ml)</u>	
		day 11	day 14	day 11	day 14
B	Lymphocytes	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	0.0010
AZT	Lymphocytes	0.00045	0.00043	0.0022	0.0011
B	Monocytes	<0.001	0.0011	0.0019	0.0021
AZT	Monocytes	0.0010	0.0010	0.0015	0.0017

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Using the same methods, it was also shown that Compound B was a strong inhibitor of viral replication in primary T4 cells infected with low-passage primary clinical isolates of HIV-1 from three different geographical locations (K31, Zaire, D370, California, and K6/2, Germany).

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The low cytotoxicity of Compound B was also shown by incubation of exponentially growing cells with Compound B or with AZT and determining cell numbers 2, 3 and 4 days after seeding. Compound B did not inhibit growth of MT4, MOLT4, HUT78, Jurkat cells (all T cell lines) nor the growth of the monocytic U937 cell line at concentrations below 300µg/ml. With the exception of the HUT78 cells, AZT was in all cases more cytotoxic than Compound B with TC_{50} values (µg/ml) of 23, 37, 184 and 5 for MT4, MOLT4, Jurkat and U937 respectively.

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In contrast to HIV-protease inhibitors, the compounds of the invention do not block virus production from chronically infected cells, indicating that the antiviral target is in the early part of the infection process, before, or at, integration of the provirus. To pinpoint the stage at which the compounds interact with the HIV replicative cycle, a time-of-addition experiment was carried out on MT4 cells infected with HIV-1 strain IIIb at high virus multiplicity to ensure that the virus replicative steps would be synchronised in the whole cell populations. Test compounds were added 1, 2, 3, 22, 23, 24 hours after infection, and viral p24 antigen production determined 29 hours after infection.

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Depending on the stage at which compounds interact and the need for intracellular metabolism, addition of the compounds could be delayed for n hours without loss of activity. Dextran sulphate, which acts at the virus adsorption step, must be added together with the virus (n=0) to be active. For AZT, which, following its intercellular phosphorylation, acts at the reverse transcriptase step, addition to the cells could be delayed until ca 4 hours (n=4) after infection. For the TIBO derivative (R82913), which does not need intracellular transformation before it can interact with reverse transcriptase the addition could be delayed by another 2 hours (n=6). The protease inhibitor Ro31-8959 which interacts with a late event in the virus cycle (assembly of mature virus) was still effective if added as late as 12 hours after infection (n=12). From the time-of-addition experiment appeared that for Compound B, n = 1 or 2, so that the compound must interact with a process following virus absorption but preceding reverse transcription, for example, virus-cell fusion and/or uncoating.

To obtain further evidence for the inhibitory effect of Compound B on HIV uncoating (or fusion), experiments were designed whereby the viral RNA harvested from cells that had just been infected was monitored for its sensitivity to degradation by RNase. It was reasoned that if uncoating (fusion) was hampered, the viral capsid (or envelope) proteins would remain associated with the viral RNA genome and thus the RNA should be protected against RNase attack. When MT4 cells were exposed to radiolabelled viral particles at a very high multiple of infection and then treated with different concentrations of Compound B, viral RNA harvested from the cells 4 hours after infection showed

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resistance to degradation by RNaseA. Viral RNA harvested from HIV-infected cells treated with other anti-HIV agents (ie AZT, DDI, R82913, or Ro31-8959) did not show this increased resistance to degradation by RNase.

5 In addition, Compound B was also found to inhibit fusion, which is the mechanism by which viruses enter cells and by which virus or infectious material is transmitted from cell to cell. Syncytium formation between chronically infected cells and uninfected cells reflects the gp120/41 mediated fusion process of viral entry. The syncytium inhibition assay (Baba et al, J AIDS 10 3 493, 1990)) using HIV-1 IIIb infected HUT78 cells with MOLT4 cells indicates that Compound B is at least as potent as dextran sulphate in inhibition of fusion. The concentrations required (approximately 1µg/ml) are considerably higher than the antiviral IC₅₀ values, but are well below cytotoxicity levels.

15 These results strongly indicate that the compounds of the invention inhibit primarily the uncoating step and also to some extent the fusion step of the viral replicative cycle. This is a unique mode of action for anti-HIV agents, and the involvement of two distinct target steps makes it less likely that resistance to the drug will develop rapidly in treated patients.

20 Although no suitable animal models exist for the testing of in vivo efficacy of anti-HIV agents, testing of drug serum levels in the rabbit was carried out, and after sc administration of 10mg/kg of Compound B, samples of rabbit serum were taken. Measurement of anti-HIV activity in the serum showed levels

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of the drug exceeding the in vitro IC_{50} level by a factor of a hundred for at least 6 hours after administration. This indicates that the compound would have anti-HIV activity in humans or an animal susceptible to infection by HIV.

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The compounds of Formula I are therefore useful for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of HIV infection, alone or in combination with other active agents. The appropriate dosage will, of course, vary depending upon, for example, the compound of Formula I employed, the host, the mode of administration and the nature and severity of the conditions being treated. However, in general, satisfactory results in humans are indicated to be obtained at daily dosages from about 0.01-20mg/kg of body weight. An indicated daily dosage in humans is in the range from about 0.7mg to about 1400mg of a compound of Formula I conveniently administered for example in divided doses up to four times a day.

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The compounds of Formula I may be administered by any conventional route, particularly enterally, preferably orally, eg in the form of tablets or capsules or in liquid form, eg as a syrup; or parenterally, eg in the form of solutions or suspensions for iv or sc administration.

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Compound B is the preferred compound of Formula I. In view of its activity in the test methods as described above, it is indicated that Compound B may be administered to humans at daily dosages of from 2 to 200mg, preferably 10 to 70mg, by parenteral administration, eg by subcutaneous injection.

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The compounds of Formula I may be administered in free base form or in pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt or metal complex form. Such salts and complexes may be prepared in conventional manner as described in the Examples, and exhibit the same order of activity as the free bases.

5 Pharmaceutical compositions containing compounds of Formula I may be manufactured in conventional manner. Unit dosage forms contain for example from about 0.5mg to about 100mg of a compound of Formula I in free base or pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt form.

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